

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/PEA/416	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/05413	International filing date (day/month/year) 11.12.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 12.12.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B42D15/00		
Applicant ENSEAL SYSTEMS LIMITED et al.		
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 4 sheets, as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>		
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 12.07.2004	Date of completion of this report 22.04.2005	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Louvion, B Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2845	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

Description, Pages

1, 2, 4-8	as originally filed
3	received on 10.01.2005 with letter of 28.12.2004

Claims, Numbers

1-17	received on 10.01.2005 with letter of 28.12.2004
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- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
 4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

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I. Ad Section I.:

- 1 Reference is made to the following documents:
- D1: US-B1-6 305 716 (WARTHER RICHARD O ET AL) 23 October 2001
 - D2: US-A-5 121 945 (JOSEPHSON STANLEY M ET AL) 16 June 1992
 - D3: US-A-5 341 428 (SCHATZ VERNON L) 23 August 1994
 - D4: EP-A-0 481 135 (REMITTANCE TECHNOLOGY CORP) 22 April 1992

II. Ad Section V.:

- 2 Document **D1**, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (as well as **D2**) a device from which the subject-matter of claim **1** differs in that :
- (1) The unique identifier has no simple functional relationship to any data on the document.
- 2.1 The subject-matter of claim **1** is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT).
- 3 Document **D1**, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (as well as **D2**) a method from which the subject-matter of claim **10** differs in that :
- (1) The unique identifier has no simple functional relationship to any data on the document.
- 3.1 The subject-matter of claim **10** is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT).
- 4 As none of the cited documents renders obvious the characterising features of the independent claims **1** & **10** in combination with **D1**, the claims **1** & **10** of the present application are considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).
- 4.1 Document **D1**, as well as **D2**, discloses that the **same** information, both in human and machine readable codes, is included in the same document, contrary to feature (1).
- 5 Claims **2-9** and **11-17** are dependent on claims **1** and **10** respectively and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.
- 6 The claimed invention for which protection is sought can be made or used (in the technological sense) in any kind of industry and shall therefore be considered industrially applicable according to Article 33(4)PCT.
- 7 Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art

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disclosed in the documents **D1**, **D2** is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.